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VICK'S

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

MAGAZINE.

DEVOTED TO THE PROFITABLE CULTURE OF FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES.

Vick Publishing Co.
Fifty Cents Per Year.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1894.

{ Volume 17, No. 12.
New Series.



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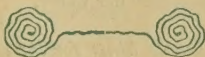
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The mother of these sprightly little ones knew the value of Ridge's Food—so she has them with her today.

The following is from a physician in a New England city who enjoys a practice rising ten thousand per year, and, being entirely unsolicited, is entitled to attention:

"Much has been written during the past few years concerning the feeding of infants; different preparations of milk and cream, with various additions, have been recommended, but satisfactory results were as a rule not obtained. Eminent physicians agree that milk should form the basis of all foods employed. Condensed milk, diluted cow's milk, and sterilized milk have, however, proven more or less unsatisfactory, because the casein, the most nutritive constituent in the milk, formed large curdy masses, which are digested with great difficulty, if at all; these masses, fermenting, create gastric disturbances, and, passing into the intestines, produce diarrhoea and consequent diseases.

"For many years **Ridge's Food** has been our chief reliance. It really is a capital food, and one that can be recommended as furnishing the best principals for infant diet. Not only is it most nutritious, but it is a food adapted to the wants of those whose digestive powers are inadequate, whether in the earliest or any other period of life. Easily digested, it only needs trial to satisfy any unprejudiced mind of its value. The age is progressive and a better food may be discovered; but in our humble judgment, it must be a future event, and, furthermore, **Ridge's Food** leaves little to be desired."

Not only to the sufferer wasted by disease does **Ridge's Food** supplement proper medicines and bring back strength needed, but the delicate mother will find in its daily use just what is needed to check and supplement the drain made upon nature's forces.

2 mos. Margaret, Anna, Mellie Kellogg, triplets, Watkins, N. Y.

Reared on Ridge's Food.

Child Growth (in fact, all growth,) depends upon nourishment. That is the important problem in the critical period of youthful development familiarly known as "growing."

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Ridge's Food supplies this need more abundantly than any other known diet. It combines the two requisites of high nutritive value and **perfect digestibility** to a degree which has made it for thirty years the means of physical salvation to the children and youth of succeeding generations.

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Margaret, Anna, Mellie Kellogg (triplets 14 months) Watkins, New York.
The mother of these sprightly little ones knew the value of **Ridge's Food**—so she has them with her today.



A pamphlet prepared by a physician of large experience, with invaluable hints for the child and the aged, will be sent to any address, mentioning this publication and sending stamps for return postage.

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VICK'S MAGAZINE.

Vol. 17.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1894.

No. 12



NO class of plants has been more improved in the past years than the chrysanthemum, and certainly there is not a more satisfactory plant in cultivation, if we can judge from the attendance at the chrysanthemum shows which are held annually in all the principal cities throughout the United States, where such superb specimen plants and individual blossoms are shown that words cannot be found to describe them fitly.

For blooming from October to December, when all flowers are very scarce, chrysanthemums are an absolute necessity to all flower growers. They are of the easiest culture, but quickly respond to generous care.

In order to obtain the magnificent specimens which are seen at the chrysanthemum exhibitions, a great amount of care and attention is bestowed upon the plants by professional cultivators, but as this paper is written for the benefit of the amateur who only requires a few dozen or so of plants for the decoration of the window garden or greenhouse, I will give a sample method of cultivation, which, if fully followed, will give plants and flowers of which no one need be ashamed.

A supply of young, stocky, well-rooted plants should be had in readiness about the last week in April, and then they can be planted in a very deep, heavily enriched bed or border in a sheltered situation, keeping them at least two and a half feet apart. In about three weeks from the time of planting, each plant should have the center of the shoot pinched out, and at the same time a stout stake should be placed by the side of the plant and to which it should be loosely

but securely tied. In a few weeks there will be grown from four to six shoots, and as soon as these are about five inches in length the center should be pinched out, and the operation of pinching back the shoots should be continued as often as necessary until the first week in August, after which let every shoot grow and do not stop them any more. Keep the plants tied so that they will not be broken by the wind, and early in September flower buds will be formed, and where very large flowers are desired one-third or more should be cut off as soon as possible.

The plants should be well cultivated during the summer, and they should be thoroughly watered whenever necessary. It is well to form a shallow basin around the plants, about half an inch in depth and not less than a foot in diameter, and this can be filled with manure, cut grass, or similar materials. This will prevent the water from being wasted, and at the same time keep the roots cool and moist by preventing a crust from forming around them. It will also be well to give a little liquid manure occasionally. On the approach of cool weather the plants should be carefully dug up and potted. Let the pots be proportionate to the size of the plants and be properly drained; use in potting a compost consisting of two-thirds turfy loam, one-third well decayed manure, and a fair sprinkling of bone dust. Water thoroughly after potting and place in a shady situation for a few days or until the plants have taken hold of the soil; then they should be removed to a sheltered, sunny situation where they can remain until it is deemed advisable to bring them inside. When brought in they should not be subjected to fire heat more than enough to keep out the frost. It must be borne in mind that the plants should not be permitted to suffer for want of water from the time of potting until the flowers have entirely decayed.

After the season of bloom is over the plants can be cut back to three or four inches of the roots and then placed in a cold-frame or in a cool, light cellar, where they should be given only enough water to keep them from becoming absolutely dry. About the middle of March they may be started into growth, and, as soon as the sprouts or suckers are well under way,

remove the soil carefully from the plants and select the strongest of the sprouts with as many roots as possible, put them carefully into small pots, and grow them in a light, sunny situation until it is time to put them outside. This is a popular way with amateurs and others who have no greenhouses, and produces the most satisfactory results. Or they can be propagated by cuttings of the sprouts or suckers as soon as they are three or four inches in length, and when rooted pot off and treat as above advised.

Rooting the sprouts is an easy method, but making cuttings from the shoots is much better. Plants made from rooted sprouts or suckers are very liable to make too many suckers, but plants from cuttings are less troublesome from this habit, and cuttings are very easily rooted.

If we examine the catalogues of our leading florists we shall find the different varieties of the chrysanthemum classified as Chinese, Japanese, Anemone-flowered and Pompon. Now I consider this division to be arbitrary, as it has been repeatedly demonstrated that any or all of these types may be raised from seed obtained from one plant; and again it is often quite a hard matter to decide in which class to place some varieties, so much do they partake of the characters of two classes. To the inexperienced



CHRYSA^{THEMUM}, CHINESE FORM (SIZE REDUCED).
cultivator it appears to be a very difficult affair to make a selection of the best varieties, but one cannot go astray in making a selection from any catalogue, and young plants can be purchased at any time during the spring at a small cost. A few good varieties are: Ada Spaulding, Cullingfordi, E. G. Hill, Harry May, H. E. Widner, Ida Mc Vicar, Kioto, L. B. Bird, Miss Annie Manda, Golden Wedding, Unique, Rohallion, and W. A. Manda.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.
Floral Park, N. Y.

IN AUTUMN.

I've a lovely bed of flowers

Where the noonday shadows lie,
They have cheered my sunny hours,
But I know that they must die.

I have watched them bud and blossom,
From the first green, leafy spray;
I have worn them at my bosom,
And supplied "the Children's Day."

Now the chilly winds are blowing
Sadly for the closing year;
Soon bright leaves will stop their growing,
Soon they'll fade and disappear.

Oh! ye precious gifts of summer,
I will miss your loving gaze,
For you told me not to murmur,
But keep strength for future days.

For the Indian Summer's glory
Bloometh in the days to come,
With the old familiar story
Of the happy harvest home.

MARY D. MERRIAM.

THE FIRST CÖOPERATIVE SOCIETY.

IN the long time ago, the development of insect life was coincident with the advance in vegetation. As time went on, insects grew to have more and more æsthetic tastes, and plants became more economical, more practical. They were beginning to feel in every cell of their tissue, in every leaf that fluttered, that it was a drain upon their systems to produce so much pollen. They could not avoid being witnesses of the wastefulness of careless winds as they bore away on their wings the priceless pollen. A change for the better was certainly desirable, but how could it be brought about?

All this while, hungry insects were in quest of something to eat. Once upon a time, as they flew through the air, something attracted their attention. They had fed upon the tender parts of succulent plants; on their juices; on the leaves of young branches; but what was this which they had lighted upon? They fell to and

visitors of the flowers; and, as often happens, when one is doing the best thing for himself he is also promoting the interests and welfare of others, so, here, while the insects were passing from flower to flower to supply their own wants they were unconscious factors in what we may almost designate as a revolution in plant life. Heretofore plants had depended entirely upon the wind to carry their pollen to the stigmas of other flowers (thus effecting cross-fertilization), or they were self-fertilized by the pollen from their own stamens.

Now it happened that the insects had incidentally carried this precious quickening pollen from flower to flower. Consisting, as it does, of fine powdery masses, sometimes slightly viscid, small quantities of it would adhere to the hairy forehead, legs, or some part of the insect's body. When it visited another flower at least a few grains of pollen would be carried to the stigma of that flower, and thus bring about cross-fertilization. The difference between trusting the pollen to the winds, and giving it into the care of insects, Grant Allen compares to the difference there would be between pouring corn into the Atlantic Ocean with the hope that a few grains might be washed to the coast of England and trusting it to an ocean steamer.

So it came to pass that plants and insects gradually formed a "Co-operative Society." The plants were to furnish food for the insects; the insects agreeing in turn to take upon themselves the responsibility of transporting the pollen. But no sooner was the society fairly started, than jealousies and rivalries arose among them.

We might almost compare the plants to womankind, who are not expected to go in quest of a lover. Oh, no! It would be considered bold, but they may resort to whatever cunning devices their wits may suggest to attract his notice, to gain his approbation. The plants could not mingle in the insect world, and flit hither and thither among them. They must remain in their own sphere. But they could and would dress better; they would put on gayer colors; weave for themselves gorgeously colored gowns; they would prepare a feast of tempting sweets which should always be in readiness for the dainty epicure. What a flutter there was among the plants! How each one strove to outdo its neighbor in

very protoplasm in the cell was thrilled with a responsive chord. There was a stronger impulse to build up flowers of greater beauty, of



CHRYSANTHEMUM—JAPANESE INCURVED.

brighter hues than any which had yet appeared.

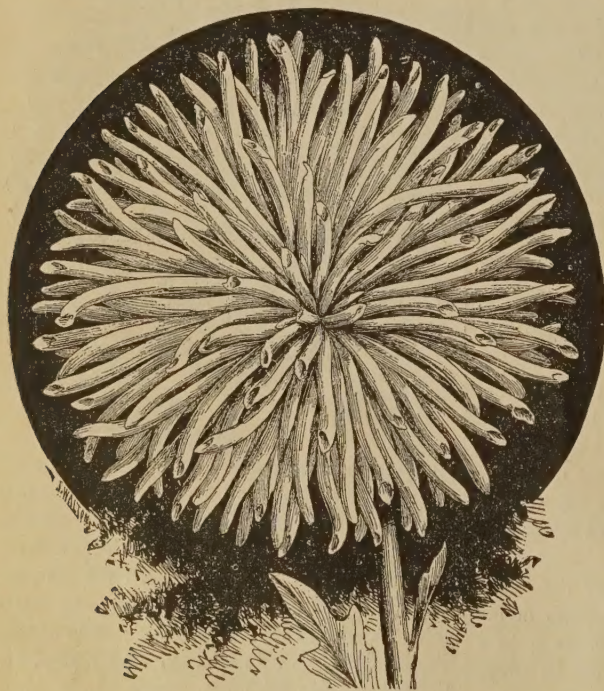
And so the flowers wove themselves dresses of purple and gold,—not simply to gratify their vanity, we must remember, but, like true philanthropists, for the good of their kind. They were more certain of a successful struggle for existence if they could prevail upon insects to transport their pollen to the stigmas of other flowers instead of entrusting it to the wind.

Co-operation between plants and insects thus far had proved that successive generations of plants would be much stronger if cross-fertilization were the rule, and self-fertilization the exception.

All this work on the part of plants was very agreeable to the hungry insects. Many of them, however, possessed aristocratic fancies, and would only notice a certain family, or perhaps but individuals of a family, and would deign to taste the nectar held only in their dainty cups. The idea of rank and caste thus grew up among them. Certain insects became constant visitors of certain flowers.

The success of the society was beginning to be fairly established. Plants found it such a saving to have their pollen carried by insects, so much less was needed to effect even greater results than had been previously attained, that they had a surplus of energy to expend in self-improvement. The insects, meanwhile, could do their part without any extra expenditure of force. The harmony existing between hosts and guests in many cases was so perfect that they assumed the same color of dress. Here was another step in advance. The flowers and insects had learned that mutual adaptation was profitable. Through this adaptation, however, they became dependent upon each other,—absolutely necessary to each other. But if the insect resembles in color the plant which it visits, it is far less likely to become a prey for any lurking enemy while it pauses to sip the honeyed nectar.

As time went on the fashions were all the while changing, growing more elaborate, more complex. Corollas with hoods, and crowns, and banners, and spurs became fashionable. Some



CHRYSANTHEMUM—A QUILLED JAPANESE FORM.

dined most sumptuously on the soft, nutritious pollen of the dull greenish flowers. They learned by experience where to look for their daily food; became more and more constant

brilliance of color and gracefulness of form.

In a few ages more it became one of the chief objects of plants to lure insect visitors, and the desire went tingling through their veins, till the

had bearded, fringed, or feathery throats. And these little queens of fashion must have studied the blue sky of mid-day, the splendor of early morn, and the glory of the setting sun, so beautiful, rich and varied were the colors worn.

The use, in this unique society, of the most delightful perfumes was especially notable. "Ottar of Roses," "White Clover," "Heliotrope," "Geranium," etc., filled the air. The society was certainly prospering, or whence came the energy for such conspicuous expenditure of force? And wherefore all these modifications? These changes in the fashions among flowers? Why should they wear "bearded" throats, or have them otherwise conspicuously decorated? If we look into the face of the sweet little violet we would first think, perhaps, that its delicately bearded throat was simply one feature of its beauty. But we have learned that the adornments of the plant have served it as sword and shield in its battle of life.

The membership of the society was constantly increasing. "The survival of the fittest" was their constitution; "Natural Selection" their by-laws. And, appreciating the stringency of these laws, we can understand the advantage of their varied modifications. The one, central, all-absorbing desire of plants is to exist. Any change, then, which would render existence more certain was seized upon by them according to their code of laws, slowly, of course, but surely. There must be fertilization to insure continued existence. It had been settled among them that cross-fertilization infused a stronger vitality among them. Then any modification which rendered cross-fertilization more certain was a step forward. The bearded throats of the corollas would serve as tiny brushes which would incidentally rub against the insect, as it came, dusted with pollen from other flowers of the same kind. A little pollen would be more likely to be retained than if no beard were there. Many flowers trimmed their throats with gaily contrasting colors: Black lines or stripes, on a background of orange or gold. Why?

Ah, there is a utilitarian purpose underlying all their beautiful shapes and colors. What interesting things we might learn could we come understandingly near to them. Here they would indicate to their insect visitors where their choicest sweets lay awaiting their coming. And how naively it is discovered to them by the converging of the lines at the bottom of the corolla, just where the nectar is elaborated.

The indulgence of plants in rich and rare perfumes is not to gratify their æsthetic tastes alone, but to woo the belated traveler from the distance, that he may come and partake of their

modifications have been extraordinary. Ancestry does not always shed lustre upon posterity, and these floral queens have traces of a more simple or plebeian life still clinging to their royal family. It is known to their intimate friends that they were formerly simply three-parted flowers, perhaps not unlike the narcissus. When they joined "The First Co-operative Society," however, the constitution and by-laws obliged them to change in harmony with their ever-changing environment.

MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN.

Columbus, Ohio.

ZINNIAS.

FOR producing a mass of brilliant color for a long time in the garden there is nothing better than a plantation of zinnias. The plants are vigorous in growth and should have room to spread, and eighteen inches apart is none too much space to give them, for they will fill it all and produce a sheet of blossoms which will continue about three months in this climate. The flowers of the best varieties are about or quite as perfect as the best double dahlias, and frequently measure five or six inches in diameter. The plants are easily raised by sowing the seeds in a hotbed or cold-frame

early in spring, and getting them well started as thrifty plants ready for final planting out by the first of June, or as soon as the frosts are past. Seeds sown in an open garden bed early in May will also make good plants in time for setting. When raised in this manner means should be at hand to protect from frost if it is found necessary. There is great variety in the colors of the flowers, such as white, yellow, orange, scarlet, salmon, purple, and other shades.

The strain known as Tom Thumb gives small plants

averaging eight or ten inches high, and branch, ing and blooming freely. A strain of still smaller growing plants known as the Double Lilliput, produces very dwarf plants with small flowers.

When it is remembered that zinnias in their present form have been known only a few years, and that previously they were what are called single flowers, it will be perceived that they have undergone a great change, and this has been accomplished by the seed-grower by the process of selecting seeds from flower heads which showed a few extra petals or flowers and continuing from year to year until the head became full and globular.

The flowers of the zinnia are very lasting, even on the plants, a flower remaining in almost perfect condition for nearly two months. The common name of this plant, Youth and Old Age, is applied on account of the durability of the flower. Zinnias can be made very effective in many gardens if properly planted and cared for. The capacity of this annual in our warm summer climate should be well understood, for it has great merit.



ZINNIAS.

nectar, and then as recompense bear away with him, to their kindred, the gold-dust of life, the hope of their existence.

The royal family of orchids, clothed in richest colors of every shade, were prominently conspicuous members of the society. Their skill in fashioning their corollas to harmonize with their insect visitors was remarkable. The flowers and plants have grown up together, and each has adapted itself to the other, to a wonderful degree.

In corolla, stamens, styles, and stigmas, the

CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN SPRING.



CHRYSANTHEMUMS are autumn bloomers we all know. But spring is the time to go to work in order to insure a good display of their magnificent blooms. Otherwise we will have to gaze over the fence at our neighbor's flowers, or attend the chrysanthemum shows

with a feeling too near akin to envy to be described.

The season of autumn is a sad one, and the minds of men are prone to partake of the sentiments of the melancholy days. But the brilliant hues of these gay autumn bloomers cheer and exhilarate the mind. Long ago in my childhood the walks of the garden were all bordered by the few varieties in cultivation and my father called them "winter pinks." Even that limited display of red, yellow, and white, were enlivening alike to the face of nature and the minds of men. No strains of flowers have been so much improved, and multiplied in varieties as the chrysanthemum. They are easily grown, and quite accessible to all, and there is but one plan to follow for success and that is to send on orders in spring, from the last of February in our climate, until the middle of May, and get the mailing size plants, or larger ones by express. Plant and work them through the season, as their needs demand, and there will rarely be a case of disappointment. On the contrary, nine cases out of ten expectation will be far exceeded.

No flowers bear transportation better through the mails, and no fine flower is cheaper. One reason why florists sell them so very cheap is the rapidity with which they multiply. The chrysanthemum is free from attacks of insects, subject to no diseases, and grows with the thrift and vigor of an herb.

Not only the old standard varieties, but every unique and novel importation and grand prize winner, are offered at prices within the range of all amateurs.

My object now is to bring forward the claims for exceeding grace and beauty abounding in the chrysanthemum in the spring-time, when preparations ought to be made to have them in autumn in variety, beauty and abundance.

They are divided into three classes: Chinese, Japanese, and Pompon. The Chinese type is smooth, ball-like, incurved and recurved, with broad petals. The Pompoms are like small cockades, and number among themselves some anemone varieties, starry and bright in effect. But the Japanese is the grandest division; their improvements upon this flower have astonished the world within the last twenty years. Their leading varieties are imported, reproduced, and even improved upon by our own florists, and their size, outline and color are remarkably striking.

Some are immense, as large as a ten-inch plaque, and trousseled like the head of a Scotch terrier. Others are plummy masses of softness, like the feathery plumes of the ostrich, covered with a downy, delicate furze, like fine

hair. Some massive, bold kinds have petals like ribbon embroidery, evenly overlaid as by the hand of care. Then again there are the twisted, twirled and convoluted varieties,—like nothing under the sun but a Japanese Chrysanthemum. Then, as if to force a comparison, others are atrophied to mere drooping hairs.

Anemone varieties have frilled centers, with one or more rows of petals, some large, some petite. All this is evidently the result of much patient endeavor and careful study. Yet had the chrysanthemum not within itself the capacity for development, skill would be in vain exerted to bring about such striking results. For certain varieties I have seen were striking in their unique resemblance to the delicately frilled specimens of Iceland moss, covered with hoar frost. Consult the floral guides for the names of the fimbriated, lace-like florets of some; the symmetrical, aster-like pompoms; the twisted, twirled, tossed about negligé of others, and the many immense, full, broad petaled, well constructed, bold flowers, borne on strong, stiff stems, forming the most massive, the grandest, and the most highly improved flower in existence. If the size and outline of this glorious autumn bloomer are marvelous and beautiful, what can be said of the colors! Here is fascination,—milk, wine, and gold; tan, brown, and pink; russet and lurid red; white, pure as Parian marble, and white of ivory tint; pinkish purple, and purplish pink; silvery rose, rosy lavender, mauve, chestnut, garnet, glowing yellow, dull Indian red, rose, amethyst, and many real fashionable dress colors it would require a Worth or a Redfern to name. The colors in some are solid, in some intermingled and variegated. The upper side of the florets of many are of one color, the under side of another. Crimson and gold, pink and white, tan and russet, twisted and twirled, in and out, in a soft fluff. Others are quilled, showing a deep and light shade of the same color. Some of the mauves, lilacs, and silvery pinks are indescribably delicate and suggestive of the flush of the apple and peach orchards of the early spring. Some of them almost make a person hungry; they are piled in a loose mass, and colored like strawberries and cream besprinkled with granules of whited sugar. And one tempts the comparison to a pyramidal mass of amber-hued pine apples dashed with the reddish juice of the grape.

The chrysanthemum has few peculiarities in common with any other flower. Even the odor is unlike any other. Leaves, stems and blooms all alike have a pungent, wild-woody smell, refreshing to the senses, but by no means a perfume. Within recent years, however, a few fragrant varieties have been added, and the floral guides always mark them with that distinction in their descriptions.

There is more wierd fascination in chrysanthemum culture than that of any other flower; more to encourage expectation and call forth endeavor. The young plants set out in spring are robust, well grown and full of blooms by fall. One point I would like to impress and that is that a dry September makes inferior blooms. A rainy September does everything grand for the plants, and when nature withholds

the rain give frequent waterings, liquid fertilizers being quite advantageous. Work and water them well if September is dry.

Among all flowers a large percentage of white enhances the charms of the collection, therefore when ordering chrysanthemums include many of the lovely white varieties. A demand for white flowers always exceeds the demands for any one color.

The list below will form of itself a magnificent flower display. The whites are like, and yet unlike unlike, each other, but all are beautiful, early and late:

White—Ivory, Jessica, Mrs. Alpheus Hardy, Annie Manda, Mrs. E. D. Adams.

Pink—Frank Thompson, Lillian Bird, Mermaid, Maud Dean, Ada Spaulding, Louis Boehmer, Alice B. Brewster, A. T. Ewing.

Yellow—W. A. Manda, Geo. S. Conover, Golden Wedding, E. G. Hill, H. E. Widener. Red, in many shades—Cullingsfordii, Elmer D. Smith, Gettysburg, Joey Hill.

MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.

Lexington, Miss.

CHEROKEE vs. CHICKASA.

YOUR June issue opens with an article headed "Hedge Roses of the South." I have lived in Florida nearly all my life, but I never heard of the Chickasa rose. The Cherokee rose is very plentiful in Duval County, Fla., particularly near Jacksonville. At South Jacksonville may be seen two beautiful hedges, one on the property of Mr. Phelps, and the other, and by far the finer, is at the famous "Villa Alexandria," the residence of Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, formerly of Milwaukee, Wis. The two species could hardly be confounded by anyone possessed of ordinary intelligence, or, I should say, by anyone versed in floriculture. A few years ago the papers teemed with the "McCartney Hedge Rose." This, I have reason to believe, is the Chickasa. At Panama Park, a pretty suburb of Jacksonville, may be seen several hedges of a rose, that while certainly *not* the Cherokee, is very like it. The blossoms are nearly the same, but the leaves are much smaller and rather rounded, and the growth is not nearly as luxuriant as the Cherokee, nor the foliage as clean and glossy. The Cherokee rose is a beautiful thing. The buds are perfect and work in beautifully with pink and lavender in floral decorations. The Cherokee is unsurpassed for budding stock; the buds nearly always take, and grow very rapidly. I have budded the Reine Marie Henriette, the King Charles, and the William Allen Richardson at one time in a Cherokee with perfect success, and their rapid and fine blossoms, within three months, were something wonderful.

AIDA.

THE DROUGHT AND FOREST FIRES.—The great drought of the past summer has caused severe loss of crops throughout the North, but an appalling calamity was the destruction of four woodland villages in Minnesota on the 1st of September by fire which spread through the forests. The *Farm, Stock and Home*, of Minnesota, thinks the fires the result of carelessness, and that the woodsmen should be obliged to clear up the rubbish from the cleared land and plant young trees. It is claimed that the fires spread by means of the rubbish scattered over the ground.

MY PATIENT.



HERE it is, and if you can put new life into that hopeless looking specimen, I shall have more faith in your powers of healing than ever before," and with this introduction my next door neighbor deposited on my potting table a calceolaria that showed unmistakable symptoms of "general debility."

"What have you been doing for it?" I asked as I began my diagnosis.

"If it's all the same to you, I'd rather tell what I haven't done. It wouldn't take so long," she answered.

By the time she had given me a list of what she hadn't done, my patient was out of its bed and laid on my table. And such a bed! A mass of sour mud. Bah! I can smell the sickening odor yet.

The jar was one with a saucer attached, and as there had been no provision for drainage the only outlet had become filled with dirt. There was no mistaking the cause of the trouble.

"What will you do with it?" she asked.

"I shall prescribe a bath, the first thing," and suiting the action to the word, I plunged the filthy roots into a pail of lukewarm water. When the mud was carefully rinsed off, I amputated all black and decayed parts, cutting back the spindling top growth at the same time.

The jar was thoroughly cleansed, a layer of charcoal about two inches deep put in first, then the carefully prepared soil. Into this bed, clean and sweet, I tucked my patient, and after administering copious draughts of water, set it away under the greenhouse bench until there were signs of recovery.

After about ten days two tiny, green specks appeared, and I almost held my breath until I made sure they were real leaves. Then sunbaths were given daily and as often as necessary drinks of tepid water.

My neighbor inquired after her plant once, but I told her it was not strong enough yet to see visitors. I was planning a little surprise for her. Some weeks later I called her to come over. To say that she was surprised would be putting it mildly.

"Well, you do beat all, she exclaimed. "I never seem to have any luck with plants."

"There isn't any 'luck' about it," I answered. "It's intelligent care they want, and if you'll study their needs as carefully as you do your pet dog's, they will show their appreciation in many ways."

But as the gate clicked behind her, I heard her say: "I shouldn't be surprised if these buds all blast. 'Twould be just my luck."

DOLLIE DUTTON.

Fonda, N. Y.

RASPBERRIES AND BLACK-BERRIES.

A RECENT number of that valuable agricultural weekly, *The Prairie Farmer*, contains statements from some noted cultivators on raspberries, blackberries, etc. Mr. E. P. Powell says: Of the more recent blackcaps, I find Palmer to be admirable, but not long-lived. It runs out so quickly as to be with me nearly useless beyond the second year. Kansas, I think, may be set down as the best black now offered. Souhegan and Tyler are practically the same, and very fine. Of the reds and their sports, the yellows, by all odds the best are Cuthbert and Golden Queen. The last is a sport of the former. Occasionally single canes or single berries, or halves of berries, will sport back again. In planting for market, not over one acre of yellow should be set to twenty of red. The best early red for my soil is Turner, although I have a seedling cross of Philadelphia and Cuthbert which is every way preferable, except in color. The color shades dark, like Philadelphia. The purples, like Shaffer and New Rochelle, and, I think, Muskingum, are all true crosses of black and red species. My seedlings of Shaffer nearly all revert to blackcaps. These berries root at the tips like blackcaps, and carry a berry of the red style. Shaffer is the best raspberry in existence, but the people will not buy it freely, owing to its color. In market it has the appearance of stale reds. For canning it is unsurpassed, and for eating it offers a pleasant acid, which is very wholesome. The people are slowly learning to value it.

T. V. Munson, of Denison, Texas, says: The Shaffer has such a dull-colored, crumbly berry that I regard it as a much less profitable kind than Cuthbert, which is a noble berry. All blackberries, including Kittatinny, Wilson, Dallas, Early Harvest, Erie, Minnewaski, Maxwell's Early, Early King, and Spaulding, did exceedingly well, as they flowered too late to be materially damaged by the March 25th freeze which was so destructive to peaches and plums, and had a delightful season in which to develop and ripen. The blackberry is the most certain and beneficial of all small fruits in Central, Eastern and Northern Texas. The Spaulding is a native or South Texas variety, of large size, fine flavor and ripens a little ahead of Early Harvest. It is almost evergreen, and probably will not be hardy north of 34° latitude. Early Harvest is largely planted as the first early shipping berry, to go to Kansas City and other Northern markets. The Dallas is a native Texan, introduced a few years ago, and gives great satisfaction as a second early, a very little earlier than Wilson. Kittatinny is being abandoned on account of its subjection to the red rust. Erie and Minnewaski are taking its place to some extent. Early King, a variety from Kansas, is second early, very prolific, and of excellent quality. The Maxwell is terribly thorny, large, and very prolific when the flowers are pollinated by some other variety, but alone fails to set fruit. It is second early, about with Wilson. I regard Wilson and Dallas as of more value.

M. A. Thayer, the well-known berry-grower of Wisconsin, mentions for varieties of the blackcap, the Ohio, Palmer, Progress, and Older

for early, and Nemaha and Gregg for late. Shaffer's Colossal (purple) for quality and productiveness is unexcelled for family use. Marlboro and Cuthbert for reds are the best well-tested varieties. The Loudon, a grand berry on the grounds of the originator, now being introduced, promises to supersede all others. The value of a berry often depends on location and cultivation. Many new varieties, made promising by extra cultivation, are of no value with ordinary care, hence, the large list of high-priced novelties that come and go in a single season. As poor berries improve with high culture, so good deteriorate with neglect. Best berries are produced only by best culture.

THE FRUIT MARKETS.—The supply of plums and pears is much larger than usual, and low prices rule. Peaches in small supply have still brought only low prices. The yield of winter apples will be light, and for high grade fruit a good demand at fair rates may be expected.



DON'T WAIT

For a Cold to Run into Bronchitis or Pneumonia.

Check it at Once

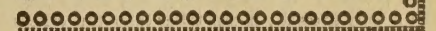
—WITH—

AYER'S
Cherry Pectoral.

"Early in the Winter, I took a severe cold which developed into an obstinate, hacking cough, very painful to endure and troubling me day and night, for nine weeks, in spite of numerous remedies. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral being recommended me, I began to take it, and inside of 24 hours, I was relieved of the tickling in my throat. Before I finished the bottle, my cough was nearly gone. I cannot speak too highly of its excellence."—Mrs. E. Bosch, Eaton, Ohio.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

Received Highest Awards
AT THE WORLD'S FAIR



Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK

Cape Jasmine.

Please tell me if cape jasmine (*gardenia florida*) is hardy in this latitude.
Amsterdam, N. Y. Mrs. S. C.

No; it is hardy only in the lower Southern states.

Feverfew.

I have a feverfew; will you please tell me if I will have to take it up and keep it in the house, or store it away in the cellar, and will it grow from cuttings?
Orlinda, Mo. Mrs. C. R. T.

The feverfew is hardy and may be increased by cuttings and by divisions.

Date Palm.

I have a few house plants, among them a plant I raised from a date seed, yet it is not a palm. It is a very queer plant. It resembles a rubber plant I am told.

Batavia, N. Y. A. G. E.
If the plant was raised from a date seed it is a date palm.

Calla Resting in Winter.

Can I keep the common calla resting in winter instead of summer, and will it be all the same?
Pokahontas, Ill. H. C.

By keeping the tuber dry, that is, leaving it in the soil in the pot and keeping it in a warm place, or out of reach of frost, its blooming season may be retarded.

Oleander Cuttings.

Would you please tell me in your next Magazine how to root a slip of oleander? Can it be rooted in dirt or must it be in water, and also what time of the year is the best time?
Gold Beach, Ore. M. K. I.

One of the best ways of rooting oleander cuttings is to insert them in a bottle of water or mud and keep in a warm, light place. The cuttings can be potted when rooted. It may be done any time good cuttings can be procured.

Red and Yellow Cattley Guava.

Will someone who has had experience with Cattley Guava tell us something about its culture? I had some several years ago; was told that they would be safe in the ground all winter; they were not, and I lost them. Then I got two more, the red and the yellow. I have them in gallon buckets in garden soil well drained. They are over three years old; kept growing all winter in a cool room; they are nearly three feet across, low and branching, but have never bloomed. I have pinched out the ends of some of the branches. I would like very much to see these plants bloom and fruit.
Louisiana. M. E. C. P.

Flowers from the South.

A friend at Penfield, Ga., an old lady of 80 summers and winters who enjoys her garden, has sent us a small collection of flowers,—among others the yellow jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*. She says:

"I have English ivy in bloom all over one end of my house, and the sweet honeysuckle and sweet yellow jessamine in bloom now at the other end,—and lots of birds and bees."

We could hardly believe our eyes in seeing the yellow jessamine, as we had always supposed it commenced to bloom some time after the beginning of the New Year and ceased on the approach of hot weather.

Phlox and Rose.

A clump of perennial phlox in my garden without special culture and badly pinched by the drouth, is five feet six inches high. Have any of you got any that is taller? It is a seedling, and seems intended for a lofty growth; it was taller than the others last

year. The tint is pale lilac with a white star, the general effect about the same as the variety called Chameleon. Another new seedling has a flower which seen by itself would be called white, but the tint is very different from that of the ordinary white phlox. The tube and the outside of the petals is red and the mouth of the red tube makes a red point too small to be called an eye in the center of the flower. There are no plaits or waved edges, the petals are thick and stiff, the foliage is dark; it seems a new departure in phloxes.

How do rose growers manage to start rose seed? All my efforts so far have been failures.

E. S. GILBERT.

Hibiscus. Anemone.

Will you please tell me if the large-flowering hibiscus, pink, that you sent me, will live in this climate out of doors through the winter without protection?

Also if *Anemone coronaria* must be dried off like gladiolus. I have some in pots that have grown luxuriantly, but have not blossomed. When are the flowers due?
Nanepashemet, Mass. S. S. K.

This hibiscus is considered quite hardy. But it is always best, even with hardy plants, in our frozen North, to give them the benefits of a slight covering of leaves or litter during the winter season.

Anemone coronaria should bloom soon after it makes its leaves in the spring. Some which we planted last fall and protected with leaves, made a growth early in the spring and bloomed freely. The plants inquired about may be allowed to go dry and the tubers kept in the soil in the pots until ready to start into growth again about February.

White Branching Aster.

Your branching asters are a great success. Profuse blooms, with beautiful flowers on long stems. Mine have been admired by many. They are all you pictured them to be. They are sure of a place in my garden, so I wish to speak of one trouble I have had with them. My *Cosmos* has been troubled the same way apparently. A few inches from the ground the stalk begins to turn brown and dry,—a sort of dry rot it seems. I can find no animal life with naked eye. First one side of the plant turns yellow, and finally I have lost the whole plant. Can you tell me what causes it and how to prevent its occurrence next year as I intend to cultivate more extensively than ever your most beautiful branching aster.
So. Weymouth, Mass. J. W. S.

It is a pleasure to have so good an account of this new aster, but it is no more than might be expected, as it certainly is an unusually fine variety, and with the valuable peculiarity of blooming much later than other kinds. We have never seen any plants of either aster or cosmos affected as described and it may be peculiar to the locality of our correspondent.

Specimen to Name. Pomegranate.

I send a leaf in this letter and ask you to let me know the name of this plant and the care I should give it. I bought some years ago of you a pomegranate, and last year it was full of buds which all fell off before opening, and now there is not a bud on the bush. Is the plant a failure?
Marion, Wis. H. G. W.

The leaf mentioned was a single large leaf and it at once suggested a hollyhock or some species of hibiscus, or some other plant of the mallow family. But to pronounce positively to what plant it belonged was impossible. Occurrences like this are frequent in our experience. Without saying a word about the plant, of which the owner knows everything but the name, he sends on to us a leaf and expects us to tell the name and everything else of interest concerning it. In making inquiries of this kind all the principal points in regard to the plant should be given—whether it is a soft or hard wooded plant, erect, or trailing or climbing, character of its flowers and time of blooming, and any others

that may be known; and in sending a specimen, not merely a leaf, but a piece of stem with several leaves should be enclosed.

As to the pomegranate, the plant is not a failure, but as it is a native of a milder climate than Wisconsin, or other Northern states, it needs careful treatment in pot culture to have it succeed. The main points are rich soil, good drainage, and securing well ripened wood in autumn before setting away for the winter.

Cactus.—Rose.—Canna.

I have a fine cactus of the night cereus order; it is four years old, never has blossomed, but is growing nicely. Should it be wintered in the cellar?

This spring I got a Clothilde Souper rose of you; it has grown well and has blossomed four times; large, beautiful, fragrant flowers, indeed all that was claimed for it, except they always come one bud to a stem, and no suggestion of clusters. Where lies the fault, or will time remedy it?

Now I want to tell of the two cannas I got of you this spring, one Madame Crozy and a Star of '91, for they have been a source of surprise and enjoyment to all this summer. Not realizing how they spread themselves I set them both in a half barrel, two feet deep by three feet across, then put the trailing dew plant and sweet alyssum around the edge and slips of silver-leaved geranium just back of that. Well, I wish you and your readers could have seen the show of beauty, for all who saw it called it grand. I had never tried French cannas and they were a revelation to me. The Star of '91 began to blossom the first of July, Madame Crozy two weeks later. The former has had five blossom spikes, the latter seven, and each spike forty to fifty flowers. While both were greatly admired, Madame Crozy carried off first prize on account of its pronounced color, size and rounded petals, and last but not least, for its clear band of yellow. While the flowers are so showy, the foliage also forms a strong point in their favor,—so thrifty and tropical in appearance that we are reminded of more southern places. Would they winter best by taking tub and all into the cellar or by taking up and storing in sand? Please advise on this point soon.

Lily Lake, Ill.

M. J. WOODMAN.

The cactus should be kept in a warm place during winter and without much water.

When the rose is an older and stronger plant it will produce its flowers more freely.

The cannas can be wintered in either way proposed.

Japanese Wineberry

My Japanese raspberry, or wineberry, is two years old. It is not a bush, as one would suppose from the illustration. Mine makes long vines if I cut out the ends and tie the vine to a stake; it dies off or puts out more shoots that try to find the ground and take root; it has never bloomed; was a strong rooted plant when it came to me from New York two years ago; it is in good soil in the sun nearly all day.

Raspberry.—I have a red and a black cap raspberry; they are near a low picket fence; the vines droop over and take root; I tie some to the fence and cut out ends; still they do not bear. Some people say raspberries will not do well in Louisiana, but several years ago I had large red ones; later all died.
Louisiana. M. E. C. P.

\$1,000 in PRIZES
Divided into 4 1st prizes of \$150 each, and 4 2d prizes of \$100 each will be given for best designs for
WALL PAPER

Send 2c. for complete detail information. Designs must be entered before Nov. 15, 1894. Designs not awarded prizes will be returned, or bought at private sale. No matter where you live, don't pay retail prices for wall paper. We make a specialty of the mail order business and sell direct to consumers at factory prices.
SPECIAL FALL PRICES: Good Paper 8c. and up. Gold Paper 4c. and up.
At these prices you can paper a small room for 50c. Send 10c. for postage on samples of our new fall paper and our book "How to Paper and Economy in Home Decoration," will be sent at once, showing how to get \$50 effect for \$5 investment. Send to nearest address.

ALFRED PEATS, DEPT. 32.

30-32 W. 13th St.,
NEW YORK.

136-138 W. Madison St.
CHICAGO.

Some Odd Polyantha Roses.

I want to tell the readers of VICK'S MAGAZINE of some Polyantha roses I have had this year: Cecile Brunner, and Perle d'Or. The plants are five years old, about four feet high, pretty, compact bushes. They are nearly always in flower. The buds are just as pretty as can be. This year they have "just tried themselves;" one plant made three tall, smooth shoot six feet high, one carried 105 flowers and buds, one 74, and one 70; this was Cecile Brunner. Perle d'Or has two tall canes with 80 buds and flowers on each; the buds and flowers were all perfect, and standing so far above the plant in big, loose clusters attracted the notice of all. The little roses are very sweet and pretty and just the thing for buttonhole bouquets.

Louisiana.

M. E. C. P.

Clematis Paniculata.

I want to tell you about my Clematis paniculata. I received a plant from you in the spring of 1893. It merely lived that summer, and in the fall we covered the roots. The spring of 1894 it started up from the roots and during this season it has grown over twenty feet in length and three feet in width and now (September 17th) it is one mass of beautiful clusters of white, sweet-scented flowers. It has been in bloom about two months. The flowers are fine for bouquets. What shall I do with it for the winter? Shall I cut it down to the roots and cover them, or try to cover the whole vine? Also why does not my Clematis Jackmanni bloom? I have had it three years and no flowers. It has had the same treatment as the paniculata, but it never blooms. I consider the white clematis far ahead of the purple. It is a more thrifty vine, and then the blossoms are so delicate and beautiful. Will you kindly answer my questions as to the treatment of the plants. The Clematis Jackmanni seems healthy enough but never blooms. Other people have them in bloom and their vines are no finer looking than mine.

Mrs. W. H. W.

Des Moines, Iowa.

In this region *C. paniculata* is entirely hardy and needs no winter protection, and we think it may be so in Iowa. If it should prove to be injured by severe cold the treatment would be to take it down in the fall and lay it on the ground and cover lightly with litter, straw or leaves; but here it can remain on the wall all winter. As to pruning, it is best to cut back all the shoots or new growth in such a manner as to get as much new wood as possible the coming season, as the flowers are all borne on the new growth. This pruning it will be better to do in the spring if the vine is left up, but if taken down for protection it may be done at that time.

My Sweet Peas.

Last winter I caught the craze for sweet peas, so studied the art of producing them in profusion and perfection. Mixed seed was procured from Vick, and a place for planting selected long before the snow had resigned its sway. Early in March we had a thaw, of which I took advantage, digging from east to west two parallel trenches thirty-five feet long, one and a half feet apart, and a little over one foot deep. At the bottom of these trenches was placed a thin layer of coal cinders covered with dead grass; on this some well-rotted manure, and then a layer of very ordinary soil. In this way the trenches were not quite half filled. After these preparations I waited for another mild spell of weather, which occurred about the middle of the month. I then planted the seed almost as thickly as for table peas, and covered them with good soil. The mild weather continued an unusual length of time for March, so the seed germinated and was soon peeping through the ground. Then came a change that all Missourians will remember caused the loss of peaches and many other fruits. But my plans had included just such a condition, and old boards were waiting near by to protect my crop. So the trenches were covered in time, and the plants found in good condition when the boards were removed. As the vines grew the trenches were gradually filled. In the space between, posts were planted and wire screening stretched (it cost about eight cents per yard), and to this the vines were trained from both sides. I continued to draw earth up around the roots of the vines until they were nearly a foot deep, including a slight mulching of

grass, which was not, however, allowed to touch the vines. I think the depth of root has saved my crop this dry season from the fate of many attempts around me. We have had very little rain for months, the grass is dry enough to burn and corn is seriously injured, but my sweet peas have been a decided success, for they began to bloom very early, and now (September 1st) are still blooming. We have given them very little water, for the labor of carrying in buckets was too great.

It would be impossible for me to enumerate the loving missions performed by these sweet flowers. They have been a joy and blessing, not only in our own home, where they have graced our board and diffused their fragrance, but they have sought others. They have been lovingly clutched in the chubby hands of little visitors, who had no flowers at home, exclaiming "Em is so buful;" helped the neighbors and others to decorate their homes and tables for receptions and luncheons; brightened the eye and cheered the heart of the sick; filled a vase by the side of one confined at home by old age; declared the glory and goodness of God from the pulpit; and when death claimed one of our fairest and dearest maidens, draped her snowy shroud, nestled lovingly in her cold hands, and filled her casket with such beauty and fragrance that much of the horror of death was removed from the minds of the young. My husband remarked a few days since, while holding a bunch of the flowers gathered to ornament his place of business, "Next year I am going to help cultivate them." So he, too, has caught the craze. In fact, every few days someone inquires how I manage my crop, with a view to trying my plan, which I am free to acknowledge was not entirely original for I studied the experience of others, and then put this from one and that from another together to produce the whole.

Lexington, Missouri.

MRS. B. R. IRELAND.

NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

This show opened at Syracuse, September 6th, with beautiful weather. All departments were well represented. The fruits, plants, and floral exhibits were remarkably fine and occupied a very large building 150 feet in length and about forty-five feet in width. One-half of this space was devoted to plants and cut flowers under the superintendency of John Charlton, Rochester, N. Y.

Quinlan & Co., of Syracuse, exhibited collections of plants, palms, ferns, floral designs and cut flowers, and were awarded first premium for each of their collections of plants, second premium for floral designs, and first and second premium for cut roses, etc. They were the only exhibitors of plants in the professional class. David Campbell, gardener to Major Davis, who is now in Europe, exhibited a collection of really choice plants, including Anthuriums (*A. crystallinum* being remarkably fine), highly colored crotons, and other meritorious plants. The same exhibitor had a fine collection of well-grown ferns, a collection of palms, and a collection of flowering tuberous rooted begonias. He was awarded first premiums on all his collections. The plants attracting most attention on exhibition were the anthuriums (or Flamingo Plants) in flower, many persons supposing them to be artificial. Geo. Haum, the only other exhibitor in this class, had collections of plants, tuberous rooted flowering begonias, and geraniums.

The show of cut flowers was large, and considering the past dry summer, was remarkably good; there being nine collections of cut flowers, also several collections each of asters, gladiolus, among which were some of the new Lemoine type that were beautiful, phloxes, pansies, ten weeks stocks, verbenas, etc., making in the aggregate a fine floral display.

The show of fruit was very large and interest-

ing, from the number of varieties exhibited.

The exhibit of the Western New York Horticultural Society was immense, and filled a long table and a board shelf seventy-five feet long, and was a fine display of apples, pears, plums, and grapes. This society also filled one side of a large tent as an annex in their overflow show of fruit. They were deservedly awarded the first premium (\$200) for the Society's exhibit as a society. The Central Society of New York also had a large and fine display of fruit, taking second premium.

Ellwanger & Barry's splendid collections of pears were duly admired. Their plums and grapes were also fine, and were awarded over forty first premiums on same.

S. D. Willard showed fine plums of unusual size, in great variety.

In addition to the fruit shown in the large building, two large tents were filled to overflowing with collections of apples, pears, plums and grapes.

The experimental station of Geneva, N. Y., made an interesting and instructive exhibit of fruits and vegetables, occupying the whole of the centre of the large tent. The collection of native plums, such as Weaver, Wildgoose, Forestrose, etc., was very complete. They also had Abundance, Burbank, Ogon, and other new varieties of plums in their exhibit. Several of the new Russian varieties of apples were seen in their large collection of apples.

Complete collections of melons, tomatoes, and cucumbers were also shown. The station certainly deserves credit for the fine display made.

J. T. Thompson of Oneida, N. Y., showed a two-year old plant grown in a tub, also canes to show its vigor of his remarkable new raspberry, the Columbia, which is a marvel in growth and productiveness. It is a great improvement over the Shaffer's Colossal, being of more upright strong growth, slightly better in color, but much better in quality. Its fruit when picked does not fall apart and lose its shape, as does the Shaffer, but keeps plump and entire, and can be shipped to neighboring markets, where it has found a ready sale at much higher prices than the blackcaps. For canning and home use it undoubtedly has a great future before it.

Watch your Weight

If you are losing flesh your system is drawing on your latent strength. Something is wrong. Take

Scott's Emulsion

the Cream of Cod-liver Oil, to give your system its needed strength and restore your healthy weight. Physicians, the world over, endorse it.

Don't be deceived by Substitutes!

Prepared by Scott & Bowne, N. Y. All Druggists.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1894.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester as "second-class" matter.

Vick's Monthly Magazine is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers.

These rates include postage:

One copy one year, in advance, Fifty Cents.

One copy twenty-seven months (two and one-fourth years), full payment in advance, One Dollar.

A Club of Five or more copies, sent at one time, at 40 cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

Free Copies.—One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to Vick Publishing Co., at Rochester, N. Y.

ADVERTISING RATES.

\$1.25 per agate line per month; \$1.18 for 3 months, or 200 lines; \$1.12 for six months, or 400 lines; \$1.06 for 9 months, or 600 lines; \$1.00 for 1 year, or 1000 lines. One line extra charged for less than five.

All communications in regard to advertising to Vick Publishing Co., New York office, 38 Times Building, H. P. Hubbard, Manager.

Average monthly circulation 1893, 200,000.

The Government Seed Distribution.

The operations of the Seed Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, at Washington, are more or less well known to most of our readers. Established some forty years ago with the laudable object of introducing into the country new varieties of seeds from foreign countries, and thus promoting the interests of gardeners and farmers, it has degenerated into a political slop shop, sending out annually an immense amount of well known and common varieties of seed, much of it of inferior value or quite worthless. And yet year after year the appropriations by Congress for seed distribution have been increased, the procedure being favored by Congressmen who hope by this means to patronize their rural constituents.

The present Chief of the Seed Division, Mr. E. Fagan, in his report to the Secretary of Agriculture for 1893, has had the honesty and boldness to discourage and discountenance the whole business by a free expression of his opinion in regard to it. The whole number of papers of seeds distributed for the year ending June, 1893, he states to be 7,706,464. He says: "An average of five papers to each person would place the number of recipients of seed at 1,541,000 persons. Of this number 1,483 persons acknowledged the courtesy of the government by making a report of their trial of the seed, such report being coupled usually with a request for more seed, 'so that an intelligent report might be furnished the following year.' The reports in detail have been omitted owing to the vague and indefinite language in which they are couched, conveying no useful information as to time of planting, nature of soil, cultivation, or adaptability to climate. In view of these facts it would be manifestly improper to burden the pages of this report with columns of useless matter."

The American Agriculturist.

The Orange Judd Company, of New York, has purchased the *Orange Judd Farmer*, of Chicago, and the *New England Homestead*, of Springfield, Mass., and continues the issue of those publications respectively as the Central and Eastern editions of the *American Agriculturist*. The Middle edition is adapted to the States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio. The Eastern edition is for the Eastern States, and the Central edition for the States west of Ohio and through the Mississippi Valley and westward. All are issued weekly, and the combined circulation is 165,000. The *American Agriculturist* in its long career has achieved an enviable reputation for the excellence, variety and reliability of its contents, and now it appears to have awakened to increased vigor and usefulness. We wish the Orange Judd Company all success with the *American Agriculturist* in its triple edition, and can only wonder how it can be supplied at the low price of \$1 a year.

Russian International Fruit Exhibition.

The Russian government is holding an International Exposition of Fruit Culture and Products at St. Petersburg, under the auspices of his Majesty the Czar. It commenced September 22, and will close November 12. All persons interested in the progress of horticulture and pomology, both in Russia and other countries, have been invited to take part in this exhibition. The International Exhibition is held with the object of showing the present condition in Russia and other countries of the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, of viniculture, the cultivation of medicinal plants, horticulture, and of the manufacture of their products. A Congress of Pomologists convened simultaneously with the exhibition. The exhibition comprises the following sections: 1, fresh fruits; 2, fresh vegetables; 3, dried fruit and vegetables, preserved or treated by other processes; 4, wine, cider, perry, and other fruit beverages; 5, hops and medical herbs; 6, seeds; 7, fruit trees and shrubs; 8, horticultural implements and appliances, and technicality of production; 9, literary, scientific and educational accessories, collections, plans.

A Story from Pullmantown.

This story, by Nico Bech-Meyer, relates to the industrial and social affairs of Pullman. It is published by Charles H. Kerr & Co., of Chicago. The story is intended to produce sympathy for the workers at Pullman, but we think a plain statement of well attested facts in regard to the condition of affairs in that village would be far better to enable the public to have a correct understanding of them.

Biggle Horse Book.

Biggle Horse Book is number one of the Biggle Farm Library, edited by Judge Jacob Biggle, a long time and popular contributor to the *Farm Journal* of Philadelphia. The publishers of this series of books, Wilmer Atkinson Co., Philadelphia, are aiming to treat in a concise, practical and interesting manner the many interests of farm life. Biggle Horse Book contains 128 pages, bound in cloth, with fifty illustrations. Price 50 cents by mail.

Columbian Raspberry.

In August of last year mention was made and some description given of this remarkable new variety of raspberry. Another season's fruiting more firmly establishes the claims which have been made for it, and places it at the head of all varieties for vigor and productiveness, and excellent qualities for canning and drying. At the same time its high quality commands for it a market for table use in a fresh state. It is a plant which demands the attention of all growers of small fruit, as it is bound to come to the front and take the highest position for profitable cultivation. The following is a very brief statement of its characteristics.

It is extremely vigorous, deep rooting and drought resisting. It propagates at the tips of the shoots and makes no suckers.

The fruit is very large and adheres well to the stem until picked and does not drop. Each berry grows separately on a long stem.

Fruit with large pips and small seeds, juicy with a rich high flavor, and the berries do not crumble in picking.

It is proved by the most thorough tests that it is the best and most profitable berry for canning, in which process it retains its size, color and flavor.

The season of fruiting is a long one and the high quality of the fruit is maintained to the last. It is a splendid shipper. It is wonderfully prolific, having produced over 8000 quarts to the acre. Next month we shall give an illustration and a more complete description of this valuable variety.

The Book of the Fair.

Although there are many publications on the Chicago Exposition, there are none which have been so broadly planned and so conscientiously and thoroughly carried out as *The Book of the Fair*, by Hubert Howe Bancroft. Besides the full history and description of the Exposition as a whole, and in its several national parts, every art and industry will be presented.

In many respects this work has no competitor and can have none. To enter into details regarding its plan is obviously impossible. Not only have the buildings and the exhibits of the Exposition departments their special curios and educational attractions, but the commonwealths of the United States and the foreign countries, present miniature worlds in themselves. All are reproduced true to life. To clearly place this vast panorama before the public, is a work worthy of the highest ambition; but the Bancroft company is accustomed to great enterprises and to carry them to a successful issue.

Peculiar to Itself

In Combination, Proportion and Process Hood's Sarsaparilla possesses peculiar curative power. Its record of cures is unequalled. Its sales are

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the largest in the world. The testimonials received by its proprietors by the hundred, tell the story that Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures are unparalleled in the history of medicine, and they are solid facts.

Hood's Pills cure Constipation, Indigestion.

OCTOBER NOTES.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

Come out with me to the hillside,
The world is in gay attire,
The maples along the lowlands
Glow with October fire.

The elm tree and the ash tree
Have changed their green for gold,
And the sumach shines in scarlet,
But—the year is growing old.

What matters the autumn's coming,
And the fall of the ripened leaf?
There's an endless springtime coming,
And winter's reign is brief.

Oh, sorrowful thoughts—forget them;
Look forth with joy untold
To the time all hearts have faith in,
Where nothing we love grows old.

We have had a dry summer. Most plants have failed to give anything like satisfactory bloom. The perennial phlox set out to, but its flowers were short lived, and they were very imperfect. The best herbaceous plant I have had has been the *helianthus multiflorus pleno*, which has not seemed to mind the drouth much. This is a very ornamental border plant, and its rich yellow flowers are fine for cuttings. But with us in Wisconsin it often fails to come through the winter in good condition. It must be well protected.

Though ordinary bedding plants have failed, I have had one bed on the lawn that was showy enough to suit the most exacting taste for bright colors. An ordinary sunflower came up and I let it grow. Finding that the plants I had set out in the bed were likely to fail I filled in among them with *amaranthus* of the dark red and crimson varieties. When the sunflower showed its first buds I cut them off. These are always sure to give enormous flowers, but those produced on the branches are smaller and do not have such a coarse look. I also cut off all the old, large leaves. The result has been a plant six feet tall and at least three feet across, bearing scores of flowers about the size of a saucer. The *amaranthus* has given an excellent contrast, with its dull, rich tones of color, and a great many persons have stopped to admire my bed. These plants have stood the drouth well.

In growing rex begonias in the house don't make the serious mistake of keeping the soil wet. Have it moist only, and keep the plants out of the sun. Do not shower them, but keep the air about them moist. This plant seems to like to absorb moisture from the air; one would be surprised to see how well they stand a dry soil if the air is kept moist.

The coleus has been a failure out-of-doors this summer because of the intense heat of midsummer; water at the roots could not save it. The plants inside were fine for a time, but the mealy bug got at them before I was aware of it and came near destroying them. The coleus is one of our best plants for the summer decoration of the greenhouse.

Speaking of mealy bugs, which I consider a much worse pest than the aphid, I have been trying fir tree oil soap on them with the most satisfactory results. This new insecticide seems to be just what we have long been looking for. It kills mealy bug, aphid, and scale, without injuring the plants, and is easy to prepare, which is something that can not be said of kerosene emulsion, which I have for some time considered a very superior insecticide. I feel sure, from my experience with this preparation of fir tree oil, that it will completely do away with tobacco in infusion or smoke, whale-oil soap and emulsions of kerosene. I am delighted with it.

The variegated passifloras will, if kept in pots, show markings of yellow on nearly every leaf. But plant them out in the bed and they will make a rampant growth, and nearly every trace of variegation will disappear.

Why don't we see more lantanas in the window garden? I consider it one of our most de-

sirable plants for winter, especially the pure white variety and the soft sulphur-yellows. They grow with as little care as the geranium demands, and are constantly in bloom. They require frequent cutting back to insure a bushy growth.

The vallotta is more satisfactory than its aristocratic relative, the amaryllis, because it can be depended on every year, and it is very beautiful when bearing a full crop of flowers.

In order to keep the fuchsia blooming well through the season it is necessary that fertilizer should be given after July. By that time it will have exhausted the richness of the soil, and the future crop of flowers will be inferior if rich food is not given. It is a good plan to cut the plants back about half in early August and then apply fertilizer. A new growth will begin, and the flowers produced from it will be large and fine.

There are many complaints about the failure of perennial phlox seed to germinate. I think it advisable, if not necessary, to sow the seed as soon as it ripens in the fall. If left over it is likely to lose its vitality.

Many persons write that their oleanders drop their buds. Why? Generally, I think, because not enough water is given. Examine the soil in which this plant is growing and you will find that there are thousands of fine roots, and then you will find how easy it is for it to dispose of great quantities of water. A plant growing in a tub two feet across and eighteen inches deep ought to have at least two pailsful of water daily in hot weather.

Solanum azureum is a beauty. Its flowers are exceedingly graceful in form, and in color they are exquisite. I have two plants; one is bedded out in the greenhouse, and has made a rapid growth but has not flowered. I hope great things from it next winter. The other is in a pot where its roots are somewhat cramped, and it has flowered freely. The bedded-out plant grows like a vine, and has to be supported by wires, while the pot plant takes on more of a shrubby form, because, I suppose, of lack of encouragement to make rapid and rampant growth on account of restricted quarters. A plant of *S. azureum* trained up with one of *S. jasminoides* would be fine, the white and blue of the two varieties affording a pleasing contrast.

FLORAL FETE AT SARATOGA.

This event which occurred September 4th, is thus described by a correspondent of the *Florists' Exchange*:

It was the first affair of the kind ever known to Saratoga. All the hotels and stores and nearly every private residence had floral decorations, many of them in great profusion and with much taste.

The procession was novel and unique, and two miles long. At its head was a great number of bicycles, festooned and wreathed and handsomely trimmed with flowers. Then followed a cavalcade of men and women on horseback, with tasteful floral decorations, and after these a number of floats illustrative of historic incidents, and hundreds of carriages, the wheels of which were revolving masses of flowers, and their bodies wholly concealed beneath floral decorations. Prominent in the line were several immense floats drawn by two and four pairs of oxen, whose garlands became them well. One of the floats, a boat representing the Landing of the Pilgrims, drawn by four pairs of milk white horses, most tastefully decorated, was a notable feature of the procession.

Both sides of Broadway for more than a mile were packed with people, all wearing or carrying bouquets, and as the floats and carriages passed each other in countermarch, there was such a "battle of flowers" that the roadbed was strewn with them. At night, in Convention Hall, there was a grand floral ball.

If Baby is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

CAULIFLOWERS.

THIS is the title of a recent Bulletin issue of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. Some of the deductions from experiments are the following. The writer says: "The cauliflower is a vegetable highly prized by many, but is too seldom met with in the home gardens of our state. Possessing many of the good qualities of the cabbage, it is to a certain extent lacking in the peculiar rank flavor which renders the former disagreeable to many people. The delicate qualities of the cauliflower are, however, frequently disguised or lost through failure of the housewife to familiarize herself with the best methods of serving. For this reason we send with this bulletin directions for cooking the cauliflower, condensed from material kindly furnished by Miss Anna Barrows, School of Domestic Science, Boston:

"*Directions for Cooking the Cauliflower.*—A cabbage or cauliflower, unless taken directly from the garden, is much improved if so placed that it can absorb water through its stalk for twelve to twenty-four hours before cooking. Soak a cauliflower, head down, in cold salted water for an hour before cooking, to draw out any insects that may be concealed. A small cauliflower may be cooked whole, and should be placed in the kettle with the flowerets up, as the stalks need most thorough cooking. A large head should be divided into six or eight sections. Cook in a kettle of rapidly boiling salted water, to which may be added one-fourth of a level teaspoonful of soda, (the soda aids in softening the woody fiber). The kettle should be skimmed occasionally while the vegetable is cooking; or, to save trouble, some prefer tying the cauliflower in a thin cloth. An agate or porcelain lined kettle is preferable to iron, which is likely to discolor the cauliflower. The odor is less noticeable if the kettle is left uncovered; the water may also be changed to dispel the odor. A cauliflower should be tender after twenty to thirty minutes of rapid boiling. If overcooked it appears soggy and water-logged. A good cauliflower, well cooked, requires little additional flavor besides salt and good butter. Some, however, prefer the addition of grated cheese. The cauliflower may also be served as a garnish for meats, in sauces, soups, and is excellent cold as a salad. Many prefer it with a thick cream sauce."

"*Summary.*—1. The general treatment of the cauliflower is similar to that required by cabbages. Thorough and frequent cultivation are essential. The outer leaves should be brought together and tied a few days before cutting, that the heads may be well bleached. 2. Handling plants in pots before setting in the field increased the percentage of marketable heads. 3. Trimming plants at time of setting is of doubtful value. 4. Early varieties are, as a rule, more certain to produce a satisfactory crop than the later sorts."

THIS IS A GOOD SIGN.

George H. Stahl, of Quincy, Ill., manufacturer of the well-known Excelsior Incubator, has a new plant five stories high, giving a floor space of 35,000 square feet. It will be thoroughly equipped with the latest appliances, operated by electricity, and capable of producing, if necessary, a hundred incubators a day. That there is a reason for such a step as this during these dull times will be apparent to every thoughtful reader. It means, on one hand, that the poultry business must be in a comparatively healthy condition; on the other hand, it reflects the greatest credit on Geo. H. Stahl and his business methods. Those who are now engaged in poultry raising, and those who are studying its possibilities as a source of profit, will do well to send six cents to Mr. Stahl for his catalogue. It contains much valuable information about incubators, brooders, and poultry raising in general.

A FLORAL TIME SAVER.

A LETTER came to me the other day; but that's nothing unusual. I wouldn't have mentioned the letter but for the postscript. The postscript was the daintiest thing,—just a few leaves of rose geranium and two or three blossoms of purple fuschia enclosed. They spoke before the written words in a wave of perfume, and said a volume of sweet things about good wishes, friendship, etc., from their sister blossom, the sender. They suggested something, too. Why don't we talk more in flower language? Instead of dressing up in our hot Sunday best and making a round of calls to let our friends know we have not forgotten them, suppose we send around a number of tiny baskets of flowers. A few leaves and a blossom will be enough for each, and—well, just compare these two visions:

Thermometer 90° in the shade; two women, bangs all stringy, fine clothes wringing with perspiration; hot, uncomfortable, bored, ringing Mrs. Clifton's door-bell.

"My, isn't it hot? Hope she won't be in."

"So do I; I've dreaded this round of calls so long now I'm out I want to get through as many as I possibly can and have it over. Ah, is Mrs. Clifton in?"

Bridget—"Yis'm. Will yez walk in?"

Ladies (seated)—"Pshaw!"

Mrs. C. (above, lounging on sofa in loose wrapper and latest novel)—"Callers? Pshaw, why cannot people have more sense than to go calling this beastly weather? Now I must go and dress. Tell them I'll be down presently, Bridget."

Callers (below)—"Will that woman never come? It's disgustingly bad form to keep people waiting so long! But it is just like her; she is noted for that. She tries to impress people with—ah, Mrs. Clifton, dear, so glad you are home! Was so afraid you would be out!"

Mrs. C.—"So delighted to see you! How sweet of you to come and relieve the monotony of this hot day!"

All (together, struck with an idea)—"Isn't it hot?" (Discussion of the weather in all its phases.)

Mrs. C.—"I really have been pining to see you both, dears, and have promised myself that treat every day, but my help is so poor." (Discussion of servant-girl question from all points.)

"Well, we must go."

"Please don't rush away! Do stay awhile longer; so lovely of you to come!"

"Now be sure and come back soon!"

"Yes, indeed; and you come soon!"



A corset must

Fit to Wear

Dr. Warner's Coraline Corsets are fitted to living models.

Sold everywhere. WARNER BROS., Makers, New York and Chicago.



"Good bye, dear!"

"Good bye, dear!"

Ladies (outside)—"Thank heaven, that's over. What a bore calling is! Isn't it hot?"

Mrs. C. (within)—"I thought they would never go. Bridget!"

"Yis'm."

"If another idiot calls this afternoon tell her I'm not at home. You hear me!"

"Yis'm."

That is the present style. Now imagine this:

Mrs. Clifton lounging as before: thermometer doing the steeple act "allege same." Doorbell softly tinkles. "Pretty page with dimpled chin" and white linen suit smiles at Bridget gently and hands her a tiny basket. "Mrs. Avon's compliments to Mrs. Clifton;" then glides softly away.

Mrs. Clifton (above)—"Oh, how lovely! How sweet of that darling Mrs. Avon; just like her!" And she means it. No dressing, no grumbling, no discussion of the weather or hired help. Only, on a bed of cool moss, a few dewy, velvet pansies, conveying their simple message "think of me." Or sweet-scented pinks, testifying to the sender's "pure affection;" pale blue forget-me-nots; or, if Mrs. Clifton has recently suffered some affliction, a few hawthorn blossoms to whisper "hope."

May my circle of calling acquaintances be very, very large when this style becomes popular. It has been tried satisfactorily elsewhere.

"In eastern lands they talk in flowers,
And tell in garlands their hopes and fears;
Each blossom that blooms in their garden bowers
On its leaves a mystical message bears."

EDNA C. JACKSON.

NATURE'S LESSON.

THIS autumn now, fair autumn bright,
And hazy sunshine softly rests
On field and winding river drive,
On wooded hill and mountain crests,
And frost-touched meadows, still alive
With late flow'rs blooming on their breasts.
Wand'ring, my footsteps turned to tread
Where various tinted asters grew,
And bright red sumac leaves that vied
With ampelopsis' crimson hue;
And many a summer flower had died
While yet their glory dwelt as new.
Where brilliant berries crowned the tree,
And wreaths of clematis were twined,
Stood nodding sprays of golden-rod,
Which all the inner hedge had lined;
And maple leaves and silk-weed pod,
With bright and neutral shades combined.
The scarlet cardinal-flower, that rose
The tangled brookside growth among,
In brightness claimed its eminence
And spoke to all in Nature's tongue,
Giving its thrilling evidence
To every truth the waters sung.
Why give a care to brightness now,
When summer days have passed away,
When green is fading fast to brown,
And winter will not long delay
To fling the lingering leaflets down
To meet their fate in sure decay?
And, while I question, thoughts fly fast
To those whose life is autumn now,
Who daily walk through this world's scene
With mildest presence, calmest brow,
Giving by gentle words and mien
A touch of heaven to earth below.
Ah me! how drear the autumn life
Of our long-loved friends would be,
Did we not carry in our hearts
The lessons taught by flower and tree,—
To brighten life in all its parts
By ever graceful ministry.

MARY G. NICOLSON.

HUNGARIAN BROME GRASS.

HUNGARIAN brome grass, sometimes called awnless brome, is a vigorous, hardy perennial, with strong, creeping root stalks, smooth, upright, leafy stems one to three feet high, and a loose, open panicle or head. It is a native of Europe.

While this grass will grow on lands too poor for the more valued agricultural grasses and under conditions of climate which would entirely preclude the culture of these last, the better the conditions the better the growth. The reported yield is one to three tons to the acre. At the central experimental farm, Ottawa, the pure plot culture gave at one cutting a yield of three and three-fourth tons of cured hay, and the station reports, nearly without exception, praise it in the highest terms. It is evident from these reports that the grass is little influenced by changes of climate. In Canada, in Mississippi, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and California it appears to do equally well. It is resistant to intense cold, to sudden and extreme changes of temperature and withstands protracted drought better than any other cultivated variety. In ordinary and poor soils the stems are only twelve to eighteen inches high. Under most favorable conditions they attain the height of three to four feet. The underground stems (root stocks) grow most rapidly in light, sandy loam, but they penetrate with apparent ease the stiffest clays and in all cases form a dense, tough sod.

Hungarian brome ought to be cut when first coming into bloom. After this period the stems rapidly become hard and woody and valueless for hay. At present, however, this grass is esteemed more for grazing. In the southern states

it remains green throughout the year, and in some sections may prove to be valuable for winter pasture. In portions of the arid regions of the west and in parts of California where the finer grasses have failed this brome has grown well.

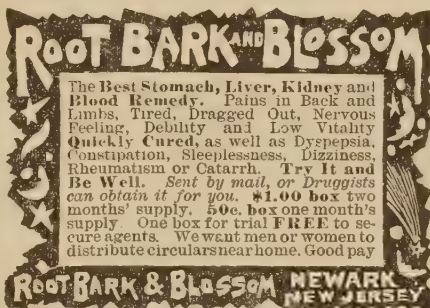
The amount required per acre is variously given at from thirty to fifty pounds. It may be sown in the autumn with winter wheat or in early spring; for the southern states February or March. The preparation of the land is the same as for other grasses or grain. In the north it blooms in June and of course somewhat earlier in the southern states. It is usually sown unmixed because of its liability to choke out other plants. In Hungary it is sometimes mixed with lucerne in proportion of three to two. In the formation of permanent pastures various grasses and clovers, where these will grow, ought to be mixed with it.



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IN MY GARDEN.

THE summer has passed so pleasantly that I cannot refrain from "making a note of it," because it was such wholesome pleasure that anyone who stays at home during the summer, instead of going to the seashore or to the mountains, should avail himself of a goodly share.

Away back in the winter or very early spring, I began looking over Vick's catalogue. Every time I looked into it I found more and more plants described which I wanted. They do look so tempting—one longs to have twice or thrice as many as he can accommodate. Then the vegetables! How palatable they look. One cannot resist purchasing a goodly amount of



EVER-BLOOMING BEGONIA.

seed,—and so when the order was finally made, it included a list of almost everything—plants, bulbs, shrubs, seeds, etc., both for the flower and vegetable garden. What pleasure it was to unpack the bundles, and how the children stood about, eager to see the new plants. They were so nicely packed that scarce a leaf was withered. The rose bushes were set out with great care, and have responded wonderfully to the watchful interest given them. The cannas have been especially admired. I never saw finer, larger flowers than our Madame Crozy has produced. It is still blooming, and I shall try potting them for winter, though I never had any experience with cannas before.

The pansies have furnished daily bouquets of the most exquisite flowers. I got Vick's "Superb seed," and the flowers are certainly true to name. The sweet peas and nasturtiums were just beautiful,—every delicate color possible was found among the sweet peas; they were very prolific, and I shall never let a summer pass without a generous hedge of them. No flower is finer for bouquets, the fragrance is delightful and they always look so cheery. The nasturtiums are still blooming profusely and furnish bouquets for friends and neighbors. They are also valuable, blooming constantly throughout the summer and fall.

My petunias were the finest I have ever seen. The flowers were remarkably large and beautifully colored. One interested observer one day remarked that they were so "dazzlingly beautiful that it made him dizzy to look at them." I had a border of them by the walk leading from the house to the barn,—numerous passers-by stopped to admire them. I have made slips of the very choicest and most admired colors for house plants through the winter. This is another experiment. I never before had petunias which I cared to keep in the house, but hope I may succeed with these.

Then there was my bed of verbenas, which was brilliant with bloom all summer and is still beautiful. I was careful to pinch off the flower stalks as soon as they were done blooming, thus preventing the plants from ripening any seed. In fact, I aimed to do this with all my plants; I do not think it policy to try to raise our own seed; what we want is vigorous plants and abundant bloom—especially when we are sure to get the best of seeds at a trifling expense of those who make a specialty of raising seeds and of course know how to do it. I am sure if I should save seed from my petunias they would not be quite so fine as they were this year, so I shall send straight to headquarters always for seed instead of trying to save expense by saving them myself. It is the same way with sweet peas. I kept every pod picked off as closely as possible and thus, of course, was rewarded by more blooms,

and lengthening the time of flowering very greatly.

I also got seed for hanging-baskets. The maurandya and the lobelia have given excellent satisfaction. The maurandya has very large flowers for such a delicate little vine, and the petioles or stems of the leaves serve as tendrils,



MAURANDYA.

which is quite an interesting feature in the evolution of the tendril.

The lobelia is an exquisite, dainty little plant

bearing a little blue or blue and white flower, and blooming constantly.

My ever-blooming begonia is really ever-blooming. It was perhaps two or three inches high when it came, and it had bloom on it then, and it has now, and has had continually. The flowers seem as constant a part of the plant as the leaves themselves. It is certainly worth having.

The vegetable garden has been equally satisfactory. Our third planting of peas is just coming into bearing (September 15th) and the vines are very nice and thrifty. I am having my first experience with celery, but the plants are doing as well as if I had been a specialist in celery culture. I have watered them well and they have grown rapidly.

My summer in my garden has really been more enjoyable than last summer, a part of which was spent at the World's Fair.

Let the moral be, as the old-fashioned tales always ended: Do not grieve for a trip to the seashore, to the mountains, or to the Old World, but cultivate plants,—learn to take care of them and they will repay you a thousand fold. They are Nature's children—love them; it is the surest way to come close to Mother Nature herself.

MRS. W. A. K.

A NEW INSECTICIDE.

A new and very effective insecticide has lately been discovered by F. C. Moulton, of Malden, Mass. Arsenate of lead was the substance used, which was prepared by dissolving ten ounces acetate of lead and four ounces arsenate of soda in one hundred and fifty gallons of water. These substances quickly dissolve and form arsenate of lead, a fine white powder which is lighter than Paris green, and while being, it is said, as effective in its operation in destroying insect life, is far preferable for several reasons. One of these is that it can be used much stronger than Paris green without injury to foliage, which is greatly in its favor. It is only fair to say that, properly used, Paris green will not destroy foliage, but the tendency is to use it too strong. Many have not at hand proper scales for weighing it, and in order to "fix the insects sure," they throw in a little extra. Some have paid very dearly for such carelessness or recklessness. "Enough is as good as a feast," in this case better. It is far more readily seen on the trees than Paris green, and being lighter does not settle nearly so quickly in the water, and therefore can be distributed more evenly over the foliage. The addition of two quarts of glucose or molasses to one hundred and fifty gallons of water causes the mixture to adhere to the leaves a much longer time.

Satisfaction vs. Disappointment.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 17, 1894.

DEAR MESSRS. VICK:

This has been a poor season for flowers here-aways. I have been sorely vexed and disappointed by everything I planted, except the zinnia seed purchased from you last spring. They are immense and the variety astonishing. I have not seen their equal anywhere. Some of the flowers would pass for dahlias. Then they last so long, too. Some bloom six weeks without fading; in the meantime gradually changing colors. One of my plants produced large, very double flowers, entirely pea-green; I never saw the like before. My meagre knowledge of botanical lore prevents an intelligent description of my "posies," which I very much regret. I have heretofore had dahlias, on stalks seven feet high, but this fall I will not have one bloom. My nasturtium bed has been the laughing-stock of the neighborhood. If it were not for the satisfaction afforded by the zinnias I don't think I would ever plant another flower.

Yours, etc.,

E. L. R.

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CHRYSANTHEMUM YARNS.

IN his address before the Society of American Florists, at its late meeting at Atlantic City, N. J., Mr. Grove P. Rawson, of Elmira, treated in a bright and critical manner the subject of chrysanthemum culture, the selection of some of the best varieties and their adaptation to particular uses. The address closed with the following narration of real events:

"A customer came into my store last November when 'mums' were in good display. 'Vell, how you vas, mein Herr? My shimminies! ain't dose nice and grosse posy blumen?' pointing to a vase of big fellows. 'I wants ein sausage bokay vor mein bestest girl.' 'A sausage bouquet?' I thought a moment—'Ah, I suppose you refer to a corsage bouquet?' 'Ya, dot ist so.' 'Well, one of these large blooms will be amply sufficient, I think.' 'I mind notings the price, Katrina ein schöne fine fraulein, makes your eyes most vater see 'er pooty vace. I dakes de vohl lot,' and he did. Katrina must have been the bloomingest girl out mit her big 'sausage' bouquet.

"I had an order for a church wedding. The bride's bouquet was a huge bunch of Ivory 'mums,' to be carried by a small boy as page. It was a comical sight to see the little chap stagger under his load. For once people forgot to look at the bride.

"A young minister, who was inclined to take love for his text, as parsons sometimes do, was courting a pretty girl, a musician to-wit. One day he took her a box of chrysanthemums, but she was not at home, so left them with Bridget, who passed them over to her mistress as 'Christian anthems,' that Rev. So-and-so had sent her with his compliments. Without undoing the parcel she returned the same with a curt note that 'she preferred to select her own music.'"

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IN MEMORY OF CELIA THAXTER.

Bright glow her flowers in Appledore,
The waves are glancing free,
But mute she lies with folded hands,
The singer of the sea.

Far inland, through her magic verse,
We heard the curlews cry,
And watched (the green hills all around)
The fishing-boats go by.

Now on the breakers, white with foam,
The fierce storm seemed to ride;
And now, upon the shining sands,
Crept, murmuring, the tide.

Not lost! The singer and her song
Shall live for evermore;
Her memory speaks in every wave
That breaks on Appledore!

Marian Douglas, in Harper's Bazar.


TOMATOES.

BULLETIN No. 9 of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, by W. M. Munson, relates to tomatoes, giving the experience of the past season. The principal deductions from the experiments are as follows: "1. The conclusions of former years as to the value of setting tomato plants as early in the spring as possible are confirmed. 2. Plants handled in pots previous to setting in the field are more vigorous and productive than those not so handled, a fact which may be of great importance to the commercial grower.

In explanation of the process of pot culture, the writer makes the following statements: "The importance of carefully handling of tomato plants has previously been emphasized by the writer. During the past season a test was made as to the value of growing plants in pots previous to setting in the field. Twelve plants of each four varieties were transferred from the seed flats to thumb-pots, later to three-inch and then to four-inch pots, and to the field June 1st. Duplicate lots were handled in boxes in the ordinary manner on the same dates. In every instance the plants handled in pots produced a larger number of fruits and a greater total weight of the product than those from boxes, but the individual fruits were slightly smaller. Computing the yield per acre on the basis of the weight of fruit picked previous to October 1st, and considering the plants placed five feet apart each way, we found for the first three varieties a difference of more than twenty-nine bushels each in favor of the pot grown plants. This difference, at 75 cents per bushel, (none of our fruit sold for less than 60 cents per bushel, and early in the season we received \$1.75 at wholesale), would amount to \$21.83 per acre, a sum far in excess of the cost of pots and expanse of handling."

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STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM,

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Aug. 3d, 1894.

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Gentlemen:—Replying to yours of 21 ult. I beg to inform you that the Tools were shipped to-day. The fence is giving entire satisfaction, and I consider it the best wire fence I have seen. Respectfully,

F. S. WHITE, Supt.

The above testimonial was given after two years trial.

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PLANTS AND FLOWERS FOR CHURCH DECORATIONS.

THIS subject is one of general interest, and there is such a wealth of plants and flowers to select from that it is absolutely necessary to devote considerable space to the matter to do it justice. I will first touch upon the most suitable plants for the purpose. The majority of these will be required for the beauty of their foliage alone, as it is always easy to add flowers in a cut state to produce the desired effect.

Palms rank among the best for the purpose. Some of the most suitable are Kentia Fosteriana, Areca lutescens, Seaforthia elegans, Latania borbonica, and Cocos Weddelliana, the latter requiring more heat than that given to an ordinary greenhouse. Dracenas congesta, rubra and Veitchii, all greenhouse varieties, have sterling qualities to recommend them for decoration. Other good green-leaved plants are Aralia Sieboldi, Grevillea robusta, and Curculigo recurvata; the latter requires the heat of a forcing house. Among flowering plants available for use from the beginning of June till the end of September but few are better than Campanula pyramidalis alba, tuberous begonias, fuchsias, Zonal pelargoniums, and white Marguerites.

From October to Christmas chrysanthemums, Marguerites, and forced white Roman Hyacinths should form the chief feature. The early flowering varieties of chrysanthemums, such as Madame Desgranges, Sœur Melaine, and Lady Selborne, will be in full beauty through October, after which time there is no lack in varieties which supply flowers till Christmas. At that time Roman hyacinths, Arum lilies, and Christmas roses may be had in abundance where a forcing house is at command. During the two following months forced plants of Deutzia gracilis, Spiraea japonica and S. astilboides, as well as hyacinths and tulips will be useful.

From March till May, the greatest number of flowering plants in pots will be available. Many beautiful varieties of Indian azaleas, and Azalea mollis may then be easily brought into flower by introducing them into heat at various periods. Deutzia gracilis and Spiraea japonica will also grow quickly, and Lilium Harrisii, callas, Narcissus poeticus ornatus, primulas and cyclamens, if grown gradually in a greenhouse, should be in full beauty at Easter.

Turning to cut flowers I will, at the outset, point out that although the majority of flowers required for church decorations should be white, yet in consequence of the growing custom of occasionally using colored blossoms also, I shall include some of the best of these among my list. From May till September plenty of flowers may usually be obtained from the open air without drawing upon the inmates of glass houses, except for such choice ones as Eucharis amazonica and Stephanotis floribunda. Some of the best that may be grown in the open and during that period are Magnolia conspicua (grown against a south wall), Guelder Roses, rhododendrons, Marguerites, dornicums, phloxes, Liliums candidum and chalcidonicum, Pyrethrum Aphrodite, roses, asters, Gypsophila paniculata, sunflowers, peonies, and Anemone japonica.

From September till Christmas, as in the case of plants in pots, chrysanthemums will supply

the bulk of cut flowers, and it would be difficult at any season of the year to find flowers more thoroughly adapted for the purpose. Good white varieties to grow are: Early, Madame Desgranges, Mrs. Cullingford, Souvenir d'un Ami, and Lady Selborne. Midseason: Stanstead White, Madame Therese Rey, Elaine, Avalanche, Beauty of Exmouth, and Mrs. J. Carter. For late use: Lady L. Lawrence and Mrs. E. Beckett. These may be supplemented with Eucharis amazonica and Roman hyacinths from the forcing house.

At Christmas callas which have been kept in pots throughout the summer should be sending up a few flowers. Christmas roses lifted and placed in the greenhouse six weeks previously will also be in full beauty. Scarlet Pelargonium Rasphail Improved, grown on shelves near the glass in the forcing house, Roman hyacinths, and poinsettias from the same structure, will give the best flowers obtainable at that festive season. From January till May callas, camelias, and Roman hyacinths will give a rather fluctuating supply, but if plants of Deutzia gracilis, Spiraea japonica, Indian azalea, and narcissi are taken in at regular intervals the supply may be made steady and continuous. To keep up this constant supply during the winter and spring months a considerable amount will have to be expended on bulbs.—H. D., in *Journal of Horticulture*.

A SMALL BOY JOKE.

"Jack, have a banana?"
"No, I'll have a pear."
"I've only got bananas."
"I know that."
"Then why do you ask for a pear?"
"Because that's what I want—a pair of bananas."—*Harper's Young People*.

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RAISING CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

His methods of raising chrysanthemums is thus briefly and clearly stated by the well-known gardener, T. D. Hatfield, of Wellesley, Mass.:

"I strike cuttings in February, and keep the plants growing steadily not forcing with rich soil, stimulants or heat. About the middle of May I shift my plants into ten to twelve-inch pots, having carried them along until this stage in seven-inch. The soil, not an important feature, is moderately rich. The drainage is good. I do not pack firmly, or fill the pots very full, leaving room enough for an inch or so of top dressing. Stopping is done regularly, almost daily; the main object being to keep the plants even, looking out for any runaway shoots and encouraging weaker ones. I discontinue about the first of August, but do not hesitate to take out a stronger shoot if one appears after that date, or indeed anything necessary to keep the plants symmetrical, which is easier than tying them so.

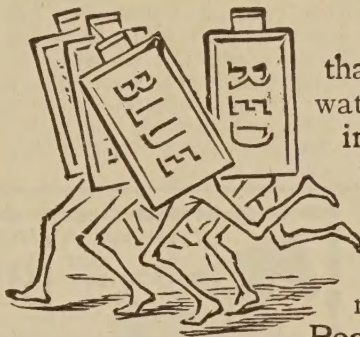
"Watering and the application of stimulants are the most important elements of success. When the drainage is good, water can be applied freely, but it must always be with a thorough knowledge of the needs of individual specimens. Withhold stimulants from a sick plant, also from a very vigorous plant. Syringing can be done three times a day during bright weather, and must be thorough to keep down insects. Disbudding must be practiced vigorously, with very few exceptions. I allow more than one bloom to a shoot in order to fill out a thin spot. I discontinue stimulants when the buds show color, and give a little fire heat, with less side air as a precaution against mildew."

SOME WORTHY ANNUALS.

Of the newer or rarer annuals this season I am well pleased with the Little Brownie marigold. It is a compact little plant, eight or ten inches high and the same in breadth, and makes a fine edging for a border. Its brown and yellow flowers are showy and attractive, and although single I think it much prettier than if it were double. Early and continuous in flowering, strong resistance to drouth, and easy to grow, are additional commendations. Another fine edging plant is ageratum Tapis Bleu, which is quite dwarf and compact, very floriferous, of a fine bright blue color, and free from the dirty look that most of the ageratum have.

The little dwarf blue lobelia is also one of the best of plants for an edging, its intense blue color and abundance of bloom make it very attractive. Another fine little plant to which I am very partial is *Gypsophila muralis*. It is nothing like as attractive as the others, and hence is apt to be passed by, but when attention is called to it, the delight is unbounded in its little delicate flowers and the elegant spraying appearance of the plant. The santolina or lavender cotton, with its slender twig-like growth, compact form, grayish or silvery looking foliage, and fine fragrance is another fine plant for the front of the border. This, however, is a plant that grows readily from cuttings.

Among the other of the newer annuals in cultivation is *Cassia chamaecrista*, our native partridge pea. This is not a new plant, but it has been strangely overlooked. It grows about two feet high, with acacia-like foliage, somewhat resembling the sensitive plant, and has short slender branches and abundance of bright canary yellow flowers, two of the petals having a brownish purple spot at the base; the whole plant has a delicate airy appearance which makes it a lovable thing. Comet asters are proving very fine. The long wavy pink petals margined with white makes it an elegant, lovely flower, and one of the most desirable of all the asters. Being semi-dwarf and flowers with stems sufficiently long to cut are also in its favor. It must become very popular. Vick's new white branching aster is just coming into bloom. It was elegant with me last year and came at a



Fast Colors,

that are not affected by soap and water, are not affected by Pearlina. They will seem brighter and fresher, of course, but that is the way they looked when new. Washing with Pearlina has simply taken out the dirt, and restored them. Use nothing but Pearlina, and everything will "look

like new" longer. There's no rub, rub, rub in keeping your things fresh and clean. Take away this ruinous rubbing, and what is left there to make them look old?

Send it Back Peddlers and some unscrupulous grocers will tell you "this is as good as" or "the same as Pearlina." IT'S FALSE—Pearlina is never peddled, and if your grocer sends you something in place of Pearlina, be honest—send it back. 350 JAMES PYLE, N. Y.

time when asters were past their prime. Its large pure white, chrysanthemum-like flowers, long stems and very floriferous character, make it invaluable for cut flowers when others are getting scarce. It is a novelty of sterling merit.

Howard's strain of lilliput zinnias are indeed little darlings. I cannot praise them too highly. After two years trial I find them indispensable. Of the dianthus or Chinese pinks, The Bride, Crimson Belle and Eastern Queen, have been very large, fine and attractive. They are all single and very choice. Of the same kind is the Cyclops pinks which have the additional recommendation of having the delicate clove fragrance of the carnation, which none of the other China pinks have and which makes the Cyclops quite indispensable.

GEO. S. CONOVER, in *Gardening*.
Geneva, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1894.

JONES' TRUE STORY.

Custom House Broker Jones tells a good cat and rat story, and he vouches for the truth of it. The fact is he has told it so often that he really believes it himself, if no one else will.

Jones formerly had charge of a grain warehouse that was infested with rats—great big gray fellows, with bobbed tails and ears fringed from fighting.

"I had to get rid of them in some way," says Jones, "for it cost too much to feed them and repair the damage they did. Why, one of those fellows could gnaw the side of a burglar-proof safe out in a night. I tried traps, but I think one rat would hold open the trap while another stole the cheese. Then they would spring it. Finally I left the traps open and occasionally would find one set and bated with an old chew of tobacco or a cigar stub. I think those rats had some idea of trapping me.

"I was telling a friend about my troubles one day, and he volunteered to lend me his maltese mouser, a great big nervous fellow, with plenty of cunning. I was afraid the rats would be too cunning for him, but his owner assured me that he would clean them out in a hurry.

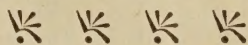
"The first morning I put him in the warehouse I heard some racing and running, and on peeking out saw that cat playing with a great big rat. They were rolling over and over each other, and enjoying the fun hugely. That made me hot, but I left them to their fun. The next morning there was more noise than before, and

I saw twenty or thirty rats chasing around having fun with that cat. On the third morning there must have been a couple of hundred of them, and every one was having a barrel of fun with that cat, pulling his whiskers, his ears and his tail.

"The next morning there was no noise, but there were three hundred and seventy-two victims of misplaced confidence lying on the warehouse floor dead. The cat was cuter than the rats. He waited till he got all of them out playing and killed every rat in the place."

A traveler in a remote rural district in England came upon this sign pinned on the door of a little church: "There'll be no service in this church for m'appen a matter of fower weeks, as t'parson's hen is setting in t'pulpit."

A Vermont wedding invitation hit the bull's eye of fact. It read: "Your presents requested."



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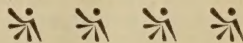
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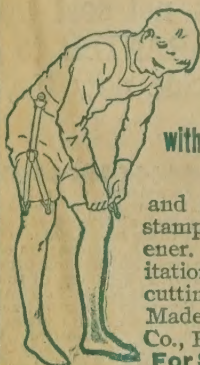
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February 1, 11	"	15, 7 1-2	"
15, 15	"	1, 7 1-2	"
March 1, 9	"	July 1, 7	"
15, 8	"	16, 7	"
2, 9	"	August 1, 8	"
16, 8 1-2	"	16, 7	"

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A sum which in selling dry goods would require five
years to earn, or in owning real estate would take 15 years
to earn.

Our charge for making this profit for our customers is
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We have never lost a dollar for any customer in
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We have not a dissatisfied customer.

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Profits sent promptly by check on the 1st and 16th
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and for our weekly market report. Our system is inter-
esting even if you think you do not care to join us.

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